



Committee On Finance

Max Baucus, Ranking Member

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Statement of U.S. Senator Baucus Regarding the Administration's Proposal to Repeal the Byrd Amendment

(Washington, D.C.) U.S. Senator Max Baucus, ranking member of the Senate Finance Committee, issued the following statement today concerning the Administration's efforts to repeal the Byrd Amendment:

"I am frustrated and disappointed to note that – for the second year in a row – the Administration has proposed a repeal of the "Continued Dumping and Subsidy Offset Act," also known as the Byrd Amendment, in this year's budget.

The Byrd Amendment is good, common-sense trade policy. It simply states that the duties collected on unfairly traded imports should be redistributed to the industries injured by those imports. It is now benefiting industries in all 50 states.

Some may say that repealing the Byrd Amendment is justified by the recent World Trade Organization (WTO) ruling against it. With the litigation still ongoing, any such suggestion is premature. The WTO has not yet determined whether any trade retaliation is appropriate. Indeed, under any reasonable methodology, it is hard to see how adverse effects on our trading partners can be proved that might lead to retaliation.

At a time when American manufacturing is struggling and many jobs are moving overseas, the Administration should be helping American businesses withstand unfair trading practices, so they can prosper and provide jobs here in the United States. That is exactly what the Byrd Amendment does. It stands up for American workers and businesses and helps them compete on an even playing field. I encourage the Administration to rethink their efforts to eliminate the Byrd Amendment and work together to strengthen the American economy."

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